

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The rejections presented in the Office Action dated October 20, 2006 (hereinafter Office Action) have been considered. Claims 4, 6-10, 13, 14, 16 and 17 remain pending in the application after amendment. Applicant appreciates the allowance of Claims 7-10, 14, 16 and 17, and the conditional allowance of Claims 4, 6 and 13.

While the Applicant does not acquiesce with the particular rejections to the rejected claims, the Applicant has cancelled the rejected Claims 1-3, 5, 11, 12 and 15 without prejudice or disclaimer, in an effort to facilitate prosecution of the application and move the case toward allowance. As indicated, the Applicant does not acquiesce with the rejections, and reserves the right to file a continuing application(s) on the subject matter of the rejected claims and/or any subject matter supported by the present patent application.

Further, Claims 4, 6 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form to overcome the objection thereto, as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 4, 6 and 13 have not changed in scope by way of this amendment. Thus, the Applicant has not intended to narrow, nor has the Applicant narrowed, the scope of Claims 4, 6 and 13 by rewriting them in independent form.

As the rejected claims have been cancelled, and the claims subject to the objection have been amended to comply with the Examiner's suggestion for allowing these claims, the Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Allowance of the application is respectfully solicited.

Authorization is given to charge Deposit Account No. 50-3581 (NKO.016.US) any necessary fees for this filing. If the Examiner believes it necessary or helpful, the undersigned attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss any issues related to this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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